WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGAI





INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 5:
A61K 39/095, 39/106, 39/108
A61K 39/104, C12N 1/00, 1/20

(11) International Publication Number:

92122-1233 (US).

WO 93/11791

A1

(43) International Publication Date:

PT, SE).

24 June 1993 (24.06.93)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US92/11085

(22) International Filing Date:

17 December 1992 (17.12.92)

(30) Priority data:

07/809,762

18 December 1991 (18.12.91) US

(81) Designated States: AU, CA, JP, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL,

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Published

With international search report.

(54) Title: ANTIGENIC PREPARATIONS THAT STIMULATE PRODUCTION OF ANTIBODIES WHICH BIND TO THE PILI OF TYPE IV PILIATED BACTERIA

(57) Abstract

Antigenic preparations active against Type IV piliated bacteria comprise submolecular units of pilin protein. The submolecular units correspond to at least one epitope common to structural pilin proteins of Type IV piliated bacteria. The ability of such submolecular units to produce antibodies capable of binding to the whole pili can provide the basis for vaccines.

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ANTIGENIC PREPARATIONS THAT STIMULATE PRODUCTION OF ANTIBODIES WHICH BIND TO THE PILI OF TYPE IV PILIATED BACTERIA

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

invention relates to The present an antigenic preparation, capable of generating in vertebrates antibodies which bind to the whole pili of species of Type IV piliated bacteria. A specific embodiment of this invention relates to antigenic preparations against Bacteroides nodosus. The antigenic preparations use submolecular units of B. nodosus pilin to elicit antibodies capable of blocking the pili function of B. nodosus. This pathogen is the essential causative agent of footrot infection in sheep and other ruminates.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Pili are virulence factors for a wide range of bacteria pathogenic to both animal and humans. These pili have multiple functions that include epithelial cell adherence, microcolonization, adherence bacteria, twitching motility, and possibly other yet unexplored functions such as proteolytic enzyme or toxin delivery to target tissues. The pili of several genera including Bacteroides (Porphyromonas), these Moraxella, Pseudomonas, Vibrio, pathogenic E.Coli, and Neisseria are unipolar and have an amino terminus methionine (Vibrio and some pathogenic E.Coli) phenylalanine which is methylated (NMePhe) or lacking this are otherwise called Type IV pili. All Type IV pili share much sequence homology not only between strains within each bacterial species but between the different genera particularly in the first one third of the molecule (amino end). This segment (the first 1/3 of the

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amino terminal end) is predominantly hydrophobic and seemingly less active biologically than the more antigenically variable remainder of the molecule.

One species of Type IV pilin bacteria that has undergone extensive study is B. nodosus. B. nodosus is the primary pathogen of sheep footrot. This agent can colonize the feet of sheep, produce proteases which progressively lyse layers of hoof and expose the underlying soft tissues to soil borne secondary infection. For B. nodosus to be pathogenic two virulence factors must be present. organism must have pili and must produce proteases. Included in the proteases of virulent B. nodosus are enzymes that can hydrolyze elastin, collagen type 111, The pili or fimbria of keratin, and other proteins. in general are understood pathogenic organisms function as organelles of adherence which bind the agent to appropriate host tissue or other organisms. Sometimes they exhibit a secondary functional characteristic of causing gliding or twitching motility. phenomena might simply represent release of mechanical forces that build up as the pili extrude from the cell, thus causing the cell to suddenly or gradually move a Although this motility may not short distance. contribute significantly to virulence, pili are thought to be a major, or perhaps the only, mechanism capable of effectively attaching the bacteria to sheep's feet and colonizing host tissue.

The pili antigens have been shown to be the protective antigens since antibodies against such pili can prevent sheep footrot (Stewart, D.J. (1978) Res. Vet. Sci. 24:14-19; Emery, D.L. et al. (1984) Aust. Vet. J. 61:237-238; Every, D. and Sherman, T.M. (1982) New Z. Vet. J. 30:156-158). This is also the case for E. coli, Neisseria, and other piliated pathogenic organisms where the pili are important as organelles of attachment (Schoolnik, G.K et al. (1983) Prog. Aller. 33:314-331;

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Haggard, D.L. et al. (1982) Vet. Med. Small Anim. Clin. 77:1391-1394; Beachey, E.H. (1981) J. Infect. Dis. 143:325-345; Issacson, R.E. et al. (1978) Infect. Immun. 21:392-397; Salit, J.E. and Morgan, G. (1981) Infect The serotype specificity of B. Immun. 31:430-435). nodosus is shown to be dependent upon the antigenic determinants found on the pili (Every, D. (1979) J. Gen. Microbiol. 115:309-316; Egerton, J.R. (1973) J. Comp. Path. 83:151-159; Stewart, D.J. (1978) Res. Vet. Sci. B. nodosus has been shown to carry some 24:293-299). cross-reactive minor antigenic determinants on the pili (Stewart, D.J. et al. (1985) Aust. Vet. J. 62:153-159). This is the basis for the minor cross protection observed some vaccine trials using piliated B. nodosus recombinant Pseudomonas bacterins. Furthermore, a aeroginosa has been constructed which expresses pili for single serotypes of B. nodosus (Stewart, D.J. et al., (1985) Aust. Vet. J. 62:153-159; Elleman, T.C. et al. (1986) J. Bacteriol. 168:574-580), but each single serotype affords only minor cross protection. This is because there are many different serotypes (peptide configurations) of pili and antibodies against one does not reliably or very often confer solid protection against the others.

The current commercial vaccines for B. nodosus are made up of whole bacterial cells including their pili each grown as a discrete serotype, (8 serotypes including 2 additional pilin protein variants of one of these type), which are then combined into a single vaccine. However, the efficacy of these polyvalent vaccines ranges from zero to 80% depending on how well the vaccine strains duplicate those strains which are actually In addition to such marginal infecting the sheep. the current commercial vaccines use harsh efficacy, adjuvants to drive up the antibody levels. These tissue reactions sometimes adjuvants cause severe resulting in abcess formation at inoculation sites. The

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polyvalent vaccines currently being marketed stimulate production of a wide array of poorly targeted antibodies and many of these are of little or no use in conferring immunity. In other words, the sheep's immune reserves are squandered generating inappropriate or useless antibodies.

Therefore, a need continues to exist for a vaccine that elicits the production of antibodies that bind to the whole pili of strains within bacterial species, such as the various serotypes of B. nodosus, or between bacterial species of the Type IV pili class. Such a vaccine would perturb those pili functions conferring virulence and thereby, provide resistance to pathogens of the Type IV pili class. The present invention provides antigenic preparations to produce just such a vaccine using highly conserved antigenic segments of the Type IV pili class.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

the present invention provides one aspect, In antigenic preparation active against a species of Type IV piliated bacteria. The antigenic preparation comprises a submolecular unit of pilin protein corresponding to at least one epitope common to structural pilin proteins of bacteria. The species of IV piliated Type submolecular unit of pilin protein is capable eliciting antibodies capable of binding to the whole pili of the species of Type IV piliated bacteria. ability to produce such antibodies provides the basis for effective vaccines against species of Type IV piliated Antigenic preparations of the bacteria. invention can be prepared against Type IV piliated bacteria species such as Bacteroides nodosus, Neisseria gonorrhea, Neisseria meningitis, Moraxella bovis, Vibrio cholera, Escherichia coli, and Pseudomonas aeroginosa.

The submolecular unit of pilin protein that is capable of eliciting antibodies against *Bacteroides nodosus* is selected from the group of polypeptides consisting of:

Phe Thr Leu Ile Glu Leu Met Ile Val Val Ala Ile Ile Gly Ile Leu Ala Ala Phe Ala Ile Pro Ala Tyr Asn Asp Tyr Ile Ala Arg Ser Gln Ala Ala Glu Gly Leu Thr Leu Ala Asp Gly Leu Lys Val Arg Ile Ser Asp His Leu;

Phe Thr Leu Ile Glu Leu Met Ile Val Val Ala Ile Ile Gly Ile Leu Ala Ala Phe Ala Ile Pro Ala Tyr Asn Asp Tyr Ile Ala Arg Ser Gln Ala Ala Glu Gly Leu Thr Leu Ala Asp Gly Leu Lys Val Arg Ile Ser Asp His Leu Gly Asn Asp Asp Lys Gly Lys Tyr Ala Leu Ala;

Phe Thr Leu Ile Glu Leu Met Ile Val Val Ala Ile Ile Gly Ile Leu Ala Ala Phe Ala Ile Pro Ala Tyr Asn Asp Tyr Ile Ala Arg Ser Gln Ala Ala Glu Gly Leu Thr Leu Ala Asp Gly Leu Lys Val Arg Ile Ser Asp His Leu Gly Asn Asp Asp Lys Gly Lys Tyr Ala Leu Ala Thr Ile Asp Gly Asp; Phe Thr Leu Ile Glu Leu Met Ile Val Val Ala Ile Ile Gly Ile Leu Ala

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Ala Ile Ala Ile Pro Gln Tyr Gln Asn Tyr Ile Ala Arg Ser Gln Val Ser Arg Val Met Ser Glu Thr Gly Gln Met Arg Thr Ala Ile Glu Thr Cys Leu Leu Asp Gly Lys Glu Gly Lys Asp Cys Phe Ile Gly Trp Thr Thr Ser Asn Leu; and Ile Glu Ala Ala Ile Ala Ile Pro Gln Tyr Gln Asn Tyr Ile Ala Arg Ser Gln Val Ser Arg Val Met Ser Glu Thr Gly Gln Met Arg Thr Ala Ile Glu Thr Cys Leu Leu Asp Gly Lys Glu Gly Lys Glu Gly Lys Asp Cys Phe Ile Gly Trp Thr Thr Ser Asn Leu Leu Cys Ser Thr Asp Val Asp Glu Lys Phe Lys Pro Thr.

The submolecular unit of pilin protein that is capable of eliciting antibodies against Neisseria gonorrhea has the following sequence:

Phe Thr Leu Ile Glu Leu Met Ile Val Ile Ala Ile Val Gly Ile Leu Ala Ala Val Ala Leu Pro Ala Tyr Gln Asp Tyr Thr Ala Arg Ala Gln Val Ser Glu Ala Ile Leu Leu Ala Glu Gly Gln Lys Ser Ala Val Thr Glu Tyr Tyr Leu Asn.

The submolecular unit of pilin protein that is capable of eliciting antibodies against Neisseria meningitis has the following sequence:

Phe Thr Leu Ile Glu Leu Met Ile Val Ile Ala Ile Val Gly Ile Leu Ala Ala Val Ala Leu Pro Ala Tyr Gln Asp Tyr Thr Ala Arg Ala Gln Val Ser Glu Ala Ile Leu Leu Ala Glu Gly Gln Lys Ser Ala Val Thr Glu Tyr Tyr Leu Asn.

The submolecular unit of pilin protein that is capable of eliciting antibodies against *Moraxella bovis* has the following sequence:

Phe Thr Leu Ile Glu Leu Met Ile Val Ile Ala Ile Ile Gly Ile Leu Ala Ala Ile Ala Leu Pro Ala Tyr Gln Asp Tyr Ile Ser Lys Ser Gln Thr Thr Arg Val Val Gly Glu Leu Ala Ala Gly Lys Thr Ala Val Asp Ala Ala Leu Phe Glu Gly Lys Thr Pro.

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The submolecular unit of pilin protein that is capable of eliciting antibodies against *Vibrio cholera* has the following sequence:

Met Thr Leu Leu Glu Val Ile Ile Val Leu Gly Ile Met Gly Val Val Ser Ala Gly Val Val Thr Leu Ala Gln Arg Ala Ile Asp Ser Gln Asn Met Thr Lys Ala Ala Gln Ser Leu Asn Ser Ile Gln Val Ala Leu Thr Gln Thr.

The submolecular unit of pilin protein that is capable of eliciting antibodies against *Pseudomonas aeroginosa* has the following sequence:

Phe Thr Leu Ile Glu Leu Met Ile Val Val Ala Ile Ile Gly Ile Leu Ala Ala Ile Ala Ile Pro Gln Tyr Gln Asn Tyr Val Ala Arg Ser Glu Gly Ala Ser Ala Leu Ser Val Asn Pro Leu Lys Thr Thr Val Glu Glu Ala Leu Ser Arg Gly.

The invention further comprises an antigenic preparation of repeating sequences of polypeptides common to structural pilin proteins of the species of Type IV piliated bacteria.

The invention further comprises an antigenic preparation of at least one epitope of a polypeptide common to structural pilin proteins of the species of Type IV piliated bacteria.

The invention further comprises an antigenic preparation in which the submolecular unit of any part of the submolecular unit of pilin protein suspended in a suitable pharmaceutical carrier is used as a vaccine.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- FIG. 1 shows the immunoblot results of different B. nodosus serotypes versus a submolecular unit of pilin protein antibody;
- FIG. 2 shows immunoelectron microscopy results for B. nodosus Type XV pili, one of the four known D-set pilin types, versus a submolecular unit of pilin protein antibody;
- FIG. 3 shows immunoelectron microscopy results for B.

 nodosus A 198 pili, one of the 17 known A-set pilin

 Types, versus a submolecular unit of pilin protein antibody;
 - FIG. 4 shows a gene construct coding for a polypeptide of B. nodosus;
- FIG. 5 shows a gene construct coding for a polypeptide of B. nodosus;
 - FIG. 6 shows a gene construct coding for a polypeptide of B. nodosus;
- FIG. 7 shows a gene construct coding for a polypeptide of B. nodosus;
 - FIG. 8 shows a gene construct coding for a polypeptide of B. nodosus;
 - FIG. 9 shows a gene construct coding for a polypeptide of N. gonorrhea;
- 25 FIG. 10 shows a gene construct coding for a polypeptide of N. meningitis;

FIG. 11 shows a gene construct coding for a polypeptide of M. bovis;

FIG. 12 shows a gene construct coding for a polypeptide of V. cholera; and

FIG. 13 shows a gene construct coding for a polypeptide of P. aeroginosa.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to antigenic preparations that produce antibodies that indirectly block or sterically interfere with pili function of pathogens having Type IV pili. Vaccines incorporating these antigenic preparations can provide protection against diseases caused by these pathogens. The approach of the present invention is based on finding a highly conserved antigenic segment, a submolecular unit of the Type IV pilin molecule, which will elicit the production of such antibodies. These antibodies bind to the whole pili of strains within bacterial species or between bacterial species. The result is that the antibodies perturb those pili functions conferring virulence and thereby provide resistance to pathogens of the Type IV pili class.

Finding such highly conserved antigenic segments is greatly aided by the following. First, the Type IV pili are made up exclusively or almost exclusively of a structural protein which is a polymerized repeat of a Second, the amino acid single molecular species. sequence and tertiary configuration of this molecule is one basis for the antigenic serotyping of pathogens Third, using B. nodosus as a having Type IV pili. modeling system, many serotypes (17 A-set pilin types of 21 B. nodosus described to date) bind to a single monoclonal antibody. Also the remaining four serotypes (D-set pilin types) bind with one other monoclonal antibody. Fourth, the antigens of the structural protein above are present in far greater numbers (perhaps 1000:1 up to 10,000:1) than any specific adhesion antigen associated with pili. Specific adhesion antigens are amino acid sequences presumably located on the tips or at intervals along the pili.

Using B. Nodosus as a model, highly conserved antigenic domains on the pilin protein were identified, isolated,

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and then amplified as immunogens according to the following three steps. First, the conserved antigenic domains on the pilin protein molecule were determined. Second, the polypeptide sequence of these as subunits of the intact pilin protein were reproduced. Third, these subunits were tested as antigenic determinants for stimulating cross reactive antipilus antibodies.

The following are detailed procedures for carrying out the above three steps to determine submolecular units of of eliciting protective proteins capable pilin antibodies against Type IV pilin bacteria. The first step of selecting an antigenic site was accomplished according to the following three procedures. computerized predictions of the antigenic profile for known B. nodosus base sequences were generated. pilin proteins were digested and then tested against a battery of monoclonal antibodies. Third, homology was compared based on published sequences.

ANTIGENIC PROFILE PREDICTIONS

For antigenic profile predictions, computer generated tertiary configurations of pilin molecules were used. This computer program is based on the composite value of the five parameters of hydrophilicity, alpha helix, beta sheet, random coil, and beta turns and their potential as available antigen sites on any selected region of the pilin polypeptide.

PILIN PROTEIN DIGESTION

A number of enzymatic procedures were used to cleave the 151 AA sequences of B. nodosus pilin into specific fragments for testing as conserved epitopes (Smyth, Methods in Enzymology, Vol. XI: ed. by C.H.W. Hirs, Academic Press, N.Y., pp. 214-230, 1967; Jacobson et al., J. Biol. Chem. 248:6583-6591, 1973). The cited methods

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were modified and trypsin digestion was completed after succinylation of lysine residues so that the pilin protein was cleaved on the carboxyl side of arginine residues to produce a peptide of approximately 5000 MW. This digest fragment contains one common epitope shared between 17 serotypes and is bound by the same monoclonal antibody which blocks adherence. A monoclonal antibody was used for demonstrating common antigens following the techniques described below. Adult BALB/c mice (Simonsen were injected California) Laboratories, Gilroy, intraperitoneally with purified pili (100 μ g) that have undergone 4 cycles of MgCl, precipitation and an SDS-PAGE Three days before fusion (2-7 weeks after the initial injection), the mice were boosted with 20 μ lg of pili intravenously. Spleen cells from each mouse were harvested, washed with serum-free media, and fused with SP2/0 myeloma cells in 50% polyethylene glycol. cells were seeded into Linbro 96 well plates at 106 cells Cells were fed with RPMI 1640 per well. Laboratories) containing 15% HyClone defined fetal bovine serum and 1 mg/100 ml gentamicin and HAT. supernatants were screened for antibody production using These procedures resulted in production of a ELISA. family of monoclonals. One of these reacts with whole pili of 17 serotypes of B. nodosus, with purified pilin protein of these same serotypes, with a 5,000 MW fragment of pilin protein digest, and blocks attachment of B. nodosus to epithelial cells.

PEPTIDE SEQUENCING COMPARISONS

Published amino acid sequence data for 8 serotypes of B. nodosus are available (Elleman (1988) Microbiol. Rev. 52:233-247). Comparisons of these revealed areas of homology between all 8 serotypes. These areas were further examined for their antigenicity.

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The second step of reproducing selected sequences was accomplished according to the following procedures. Selected peptides were synthesized. Then portions of B. nodosus pilin genome were amplified.

SYNTHETIC PEPTIDE ANALYSIS METHODS

The pilin protein of eight serotypes of B. nodosus have been sequenced and compared for homology. Using the methods of Chou and Fasman (Ann Rev Biochem. 47:251-276, 1978), the secondary structures represented by probable beta-turns were predicted. Also using computer generated models, three of these were compared for regions of hydrophobicity/hydrophilicity of the pilin. Using this rationale two peptides were synthesized where homology occurs between the pilin protein of various B. nodosus Australian strains. These were bound to carrier molecules (KLH) and used in rabbits to produce antibodies against the peptides. Although these antibodies did bind to the synthetic peptides, they bound poorly to whole pili and did not block pili adherence. Thus, these two regions were shown not to be of major interest as antigenic sites and focused attention on more highly conserved regions.

B. NODOSUS PILIN GENOME AMPLIFICATION

An Applied Biosystems Model 380A Synthesizer was used to synthesize oligonucleotides up to 50 bases in length. These oligonucleotides correspond to the entire primary structural gene that codes for the pilin of B. nodosus A198 incorporating phosphoramidites and standard methods. Also synthesized were complementary sequences to be used as bridges for reconstructing any portion of the genomic code for A198 pilin. Gaps in the second strand can be completed and sealed as desired using DNA polymerase I and DNA ligase. Using this technology, a specified

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oligonucleotide of 153 bases was assembled. This gene can be amplified using a cloning vector.

In an alternate and more reliable approach PCR was used to amplify the desired genomic segments out of native B. nodosus cultures. This was accomplished by synthesizing two primers. The first primer was 27 bases with a Bam HI restriction site in the overhang as shown on the gene construct of Fig. 4. The second primer was 30 bases with a stop codon and Hind III site in the overhang as shown Such gene construct of Fig. 4. the construction gave in-frame and directional efficiency for The primers were purified by acrylamide gel and electrophoresis to give 2.5 mg/ml respectively. PCR amplification was accomplished with 25 cycles at 50°C annealing temperature. The resultant very tight band of B. nodosus DNA was purified by cTAB precipitation in high salt and 3 ammonium acetate giving a precipitations with ethanol, The DNA fragment included concentration of 500 ng/ul. the partial gene for the pilin protein molecule, and 21 additional bases including a stop codon. This PCR fragment insert was cloned into the over expression vector pTTQ8 (Amersham Cat. No. RPN 1259) and three of these clones were sequenced as follows. primed with the m13/pUC forward sequencing primer using a sequence USB.X This primer matches the pTTQ8 vector at 5 bases downstream from the Hind III site on the 3' side of the pTTQ8 polylinker and allowed direct sequencing of the Bam H1 through Hind III insert in the pTTQ8 plasmid. All three clones sequenced were the same 160 base fragment, all have an open reading frame from Bam H1 to Hind III, and were of the intended base sequence and To insure sufficient antigenicity for the small molecular weight peptide (< 10,000 daltons), the small peptide was expressed as a TrpE fusion protein. This was accomplished by subcloning into the pATH3 vector. The system expressed a TrpE fusion protein of pATH3

approximately 40,000 daltons comprising about 10% of total protein production. This system was scaled up giving approximately 50 mg of pilin-TrpE fusion protein that was purified over a preparative SDS-PAGE gel.

The third step of testing antigenic characteristics of peptides was accomplished according to the following procedures. Antibodies were produced against the peptides. These antibodies were tested for binding specificity to B. nodosus pili.

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ANTIBODY PRODUCTION

Antibodies were generated by administering the fusion protein subcutaneously and intramuscularly into rabbits. This was done using 1 mg amounts contained in polyacrylamide gel and complete Freund's adjuvant after the methods of Rothbard et al., J. Exp. Med. 110:208-221, 1984.

ANTIBODY BINDING SPECIFICITY TO B. NODOSUS PILI

The immunoblot procedure used a nitrocellulose membrane to which whole B. nodosus pili are fixed. nitrocellulose binding sites unoccupied by transferred protein were saturated by incubation with 3% gelatin TBS The treated nitrocellulose was incubated for 1 hour. with antiserum dilution of 1:500 in TBS + 1% with gelatin, then washed 4 times 2 x 10 minutes with TBS and 0.05% Tween 20 and 2 x 10 minutes with Tween-free TBS pH Antibody bound protein was then visualized by incubating for 1 hour in secondary antibody solution (goat antirabbit) conjugated with horseradish peroxidase diluted 1:2000 with antibody buffer. Then it was washed above and developed with horseradish times as Using these immunoblot peroxidase color development. procedures, polyvalent rabbit antiserum, which was made against highly purified whole pilin, also bound the pilin protein.

Rabbits were inoculated with the 6,270 dalton fusion protein subunit of the pilin molecule contained in polyacrylamide gel and Freund's adjuvant. A 1:250 dilution of serum from the rabbits was used against 3 serotypes of B. nodosus, a whole bacteria and purified pilin preparation. The antipilus antibody produced in the rabbits, receiving the fusion protein, was detected by immunoblot techniques. See Table 1.

Table 1 IMMUNOBLOT: Three Serotypes of B. nodosus
Purified Pili vs. Antibody to a
6270 Molecular Weight
Replicate of Partial Pilin Expressed as a
Fusion Protein with TrpE.

ANTISERUM

* Rabbits were given booster injections

+ = Positive

 \pm = Very weak positive

- = No detectable reaction

FIG. 1 shows the immunoblot results of different B. nodosus serotypes versus a submolecular unit of pilin protein antibody. Lane 1 showed the antiserum of rabbit #684 at pre-injection. Lane 2 showed antipilus antibody being produced in rabbit #684 against B. nodosus serotypes of A-set and D-set pili 98 days after receiving the 6,270 dalton fusion protein. Lane 3 showed the antiserum of rabbit #685 at pre-injection. Lane 4 showed antipilus antibody being produced in rabbit #685 against B. nodosus serotypes of A-set and D-set pili 98 days

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after receiving the 6,270 dalton fusion protein. The differences in reaction between the samples of *B. nodosus* pili serotypes shown in FIG. 1 reflect the differences in pili concentration. The A 198 (A-set pilin) shown in FIG. 1 represent different sample passages.

The immunoelectron microscopy procedures carried out were a modification of those described by Lindberg et al. (1987) Nature 328:84-87. Whole B. nodosus purified pili were allowed to sediment onto a formvar-coated copper Then they were reacted three grid for 10 minutes. minutes against a drop of 1/10 dilution of antibody preparation in RLA-buffer followed by gentle (five The grids treated with minute) washing using P-buffer. the final antibody were washed for five minutes with P-buffer. Next the grids were negatively stained with 1% the examined under silicotungstate and sodium transmission electron microscope to detect the structural relationships of the pili.

Slide agglutination tests were run using lyophilized cultures of Eugon agar grown *B. nodosus* in aqueous suspension to provide approximately 10⁷ bacteria/ml. Drops of this preparation were mixed with test sera on a slide and observed by light microscopy for agglutination or aggregation of the whole bacteria.

The use of colloidal gold label to detect antibody binding to pili was carried out through the following steps:

- B. nodosus culture for agar plate resuspended in double distilled water, vortexes briefly, and clarified by centrifugation @ 1,000 x g for 10 minutes;
- 2. 10ul drop of supernatant place on a Formvar coated grid for 20 minutes in a moist chamber @ 37°C;

- 3. grid was blotted and washed two times with tris buffered saline containing 0.3% Tween-20;
- 4. 10 ul drop of a 1:200 dilution of serum (in TBS/0.3% Tween) was placed on the grid and incubated for 90 minutes in a moist chamber @ 37°C;
- 5. grid was blotted and washed three times with TBS/Tween;
- 6. 10 ul drop of a 1:100 dilution of anti-rabbit IgG gold conjugate (10nm) was placed on the grid and incubated for 120 minutes in a moist chamber @ 37°C; and
- 7. grid was blotted and washed five times with TBS/Tween, rinsed three times with distilled water, and stained with 1.3% phosphotungstic acid @pH 7.0; then examined with a transmission electron microscope.

An alternate method to show aggregation of serum-treated pili, rather than just attachment of gold to pili uses the following steps:

- 1. B. nodosus culture for agar plate resuspended in double distilled water, vortexes briefly, and clarified by centrifugation @ 1,000 x g for 10 minutes;
- 2. 10 ul drop of supernatant and 10ul drop of 1:100 serum (diluted in TBS/0.3% Tween) mixed together in microcentrifuge tube, and incubated for 90 minutes @ 37°C;
- 3. 10 ul drop of mixture from Step #2 was placed on a Formvar-coated grid for 20 minutes in a moist chamber @ 37°C;
- 4. grid was blotted and washed three times with TBS/Tween;
- 5. 10 ul drop of a 1:100 dilution of anti-rabbit IgG gold conjugate (10 nm) was placed on the grid and incubated for 120 minutes in a moist chamber @ 37°C; and

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6. grid was blotted and washed five times with TBS/Tween, rinsed three times with distilled water, and stained with 1.3% phosphotungstic acid @pH 7.0; then examined with a transmission electron microscope.

FIG. 2 shows immunoelectron microscopy results for B. nodosus Type II pili, one of the four D-set pilin Types, versus a submolecular unit of pilin protein antibody generated in rabbits using a 10 nm colloidal gold label. In FIG. 2 the pili without antibody are 5-6 nm in diameter. Those pili coated with antibody are 10-15 nm in diameter and show configurational disruption because of antibody cross binding.

FIG. 3 shows immunoelectron microscopy results for B. nodosus A 198 pili, one of the 17 known-A-set pilin Types, versus a submolecular unit of pilin protein antibody generated in rabbits using a 10 nm colloidal gold label. In FIG. 3 the pili without antibody are 5-6 nm in diameter and the pili coated antibody which are 10-15 nm in diameter show configurational disruption. In both FIGS. 2 and 3 the colloidal gold label is less than the amount of bound antibody because the labeling reaction was not run to completion.

Antibodies against the submolecular units of pilin proteins bind pili of antigenic groups which represent all currently known B. nodosus serotypes causing them to clump. Clumping, which can be shown to be caused by antibody binding to the structural pilin protein molecule, has the effect of reducing the availability of adhesion proteins for attaching B. nodosus to host tissue. Thus, an antibody directed to common epitopes on structural pilin proteins of B. nodosus can mechanically interfere with its adherence to host tissue. This same stearic interference can similarly perturb all pili functions.

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Five separate and distinct gene configurations, coding for B. nodosus polypeptides of approximately 6000, 7500, 8150, 8500, and 9150 molecular weight, were determined. See the sequences in FIGS. 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. Also five additional sequences, representing Neisseria gonorrhea, meningitis, Moraxella bovis, Vibrio cholera, Pseudomonas aeroginosa, were determined. All ten of these are constructs which may or may not have the first amino acid (phenylalanine, usually methylated) included. Each construct then continues with specific sequences, cut sites and stop codons such that they can be moved between vector systems. Examples of vectors include, but are not limited to, E. coli, Pseudomonas, poxviruses. herpesvirus, and irridivirus. In this way either live virus vaccines or purified protein vaccines could be assembled depending upon efficacy, cost, feasibility and need.

As shown in FIG. 4, the first of these constructs is 150 bases with Bam Hl and Hind III restriction sites added at the 5' and 3' ends, respectively. Also a stop codon is added at the 3' end. The second construct, as shown in FIG. 5, is identical to the construct in FIG. 4 except that 33 bases are inserted in front of both the stop codon and Hind III restriction site at the 3' end. FIG. 6 the construct is identical to the one in FIG. 5 except for the 15 bases added. Although the construct in FIG. 7 is not a modification of those in FIGS. 5 and 6, It is made up of 207 bases with Bam Hl it is similar. and Hind III sites added on the 5' and respectively. Also a stop codon is placed on the 3' end. The construct in FIG. 8 differs from the one in FIG. 7 with the addition of 15 bases. All of these constructs are designed to express products with an appropriate and predicted alpha helix for histocompatibility processing. Thus, they may act as stand alone antigens (singlets) or as repeating units of antigens (doublets, triplets). They are also designed to be expressed with fusion

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proteins such as Trp E for increasing the size of the molecule carrying the desired epitopes. Furthermore, synthetic peptides representing all or any antigenic portion of these constructs could be combined with a molecular carrier and used as antigens to generate antipili antibodies.

The five constructs as shown in FIGS. 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 include approximately 150-159 bases, the aforementioned restriction sites, and stop codons. These constructs represent the DNA sequences for N. gonorrhea, N. meningitis, M. bovis, V. cholera, and P. aeroginosa. See FIGS. 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, respectively. These constructs are designed so they can function in the same manner as the B. nodosus prototype construct.

The invention now being fully described, it will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that many changes and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention.

CLAIMS

- 1. An antigenic preparation active against a species of Type IV piliated bacteria comprising a submolecular unit of pilin protein corresponding to at least one epitope common to structural pilin proteins of the species of Type IV piliated bacteria, which submolecular unit is capable of eliciting antibodies capable of binding to the whole pili of the species of Type IV piliated bacteria.
- 2. An antigenic preparation according to claim 1 in which the submolecular unit of pilin protein is derived from a species selected from the group consisting of:

 Bacteroides nodosus, Neisseria gonorrhea, Neisseria meningitis, Moraxella bovis, Vibrio cholera, Escherichia coli, and Pseudomonas aeroginosa.

3. An antigenic preparation according to claim 2 against *Bacteroides nodosus*, wherein the submolecular unit is selected from the group of polypeptides consisting of:

Phe Thr Leu Ile Glu Leu Met Ile Val Val Ala Ile Ile Gly 5 Ile Leu Ala Ala Phe Ala Ile Pro Ala Tyr Asn Asp Tyr Ile Ala Arg Ser Gln Ala Ala Glu Gly Leu Thr Leu Ala Asp Gly Leu Lys Val Arg Ile Ser Asp His Leu; Phe Thr Leu Ile Glu Leu Met Ile Val Val Ala Ile Ile Gly Ile Leu Ala Ala Phe Ala Ile Pro Ala Tyr Asn Asp Tyr Ile 10 Ala Arg Ser Gln Ala Ala Glu Gly Leu Thr Leu Ala Asp Gly Leu Lys Val Arg Ile Ser Asp His Leu Gly Asn Asp Asp Lys Gly Lys Tyr Ala Leu Ala; Phe Thr Leu Ile Glu Leu Met Ile Val Val Ala Ile Ile Gly Ile Leu Ala Ala Phe Ala Ile Pro Ala Tyr Asn Asp Tyr Ile 15 Ala Arg Ser Gln Ala Ala Glu Gly Leu Thr Leu Ala Asp Gly Leu Lys Val Arg Ile Ser Asp His Leu Gly Asn Asp Asp Lys Gly Lys Tyr Ala Leu Ala Thr Ile Asp Gly Asp; Phe Thr Leu Ile Glu Leu Met Ile Val Val Ala Ile Ile Gly Ile Leu Ala Ala Ile Ala Ile Pro Gln Tyr Gln Asn Tyr Ile Ala Arg Ser 20 Gln Val Ser Arg Val Met Ser Glu Thr Gly Gln Met Arg Thr Ala Ile Glu Thr Cys Leu Leu Asp Gly Lys Glu Gly Lys Asp Cys Phe Ile Gly Trp Thr Thr Ser Asn Leu; and Phe Thr Leu Ile Glu Leu Met Ile Val Val Ala Ile Ile Gly Ile Leu Ala Ala Ile Ala Ile Pro Gln Tyr Gln Asn Tyr Ile 25 Ala Arg Ser Gln Val Ser Arg Val Met Ser Glu Thr Gly Gln Met Arg Thr Ala Ile Glu Thr Cys Leu Leu Asp Gly Lys Glu Gly Lys Asp Cys Phe Ile Gly Trp Thr Thr Ser Asn Leu Leu Cys Ser Thr Asp Val Asp Glu Lys Phe Lys Pro Thr.

- 4. An antigenic preparation according to claim 3, further comprising repeating sequences of any of the polypeptides.
- 5. An antigenic preparation according to claim 3, further comprising at least one epitope of any of the polypeptides.

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6. An antigenic preparation according to claim 2 against Neisseria gonorrhea, wherein the submolecular unit has the following sequence:

Phe Thr Leu Ile Glu Leu Met Ile Val Ile Ala Ile Val Gly Ile Leu Ala Ala Val Ala Leu Pro Ala Tyr Gln Asp Tyr Thr Ala Arg Ala Gln Val Ser Glu Ala Ile Leu Leu Ala Glu Gly Gln Lys Ser Ala Val Thr Glu Tyr Tyr Leu Asn.

- 7. An antigenic preparation according to claim 6, further comprising repeating sequences of the polypeptide.
- 8. An antigenic preparation according to claim 6, further comprising at least one epitope of the polypeptide.
- 9. An antigenic preparation according to claim 2 against Neisseria meningitis, wherein the submolecular unit has the following sequence:

Phe Thr Leu Ile Glu Leu Met Ile Val Ile Ala Ile Val Gly Ile Leu Ala Ala Val Ala Leu Pro Ala Tyr Gln Asp Tyr Thr Ala Arg Ala Gln Val Ser Glu Ala Ile Leu Leu Ala Glu Gly Gln Lys Ser Ala Val Thr Glu Tyr Tyr Leu Asn.

- 10. An antigenic preparation according to claim 9, further comprising repeating sequences of the polypeptide.
- 11. An antigenic preparation according to claim 9, 25 further comprising at least one epitope of the polypeptide.

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12. An antigenic preparation according to claim 2 against Moraxella bovis, wherein the submolecular unit has the following sequence:

Phe Thr Leu Ile Glu Leu Met Ile Val Ile Ala Ile Ile Gly Ile Leu Ala Ala Ile Ala Leu Pro Ala Tyr Gln Asp Tyr Ile Ser Lys Ser Gln Thr Thr Arg Val Val Gly Glu Leu Ala Ala Gly Lys Thr Ala Val Asp Ala Ala Leu Phe Glu Gly Lys Thr Pro.

- 13. An antigenic preparation according to claim 12, further comprising repeating sequences of the polypeptide.
 - 14. An antigenic preparation according to claim 12, further comprising at least one epitope of the polypeptide.
- 15. An antigenic preparation according to claim 2 against *Vibrio cholera*, wherein the submolecular unit has the following structure:
- Met Thr Leu Leu Glu Val Ile Ile Val Leu Gly Ile Met Gly
 Val Val Ser Ala Gly Val Val Thr Leu Ala Gln Arg Ala Ile
 Asp Ser Gln Asn Met Thr Lys Ala Ala Gln Ser Leu Asn Ser
 Ile Gln Val Ala Leu Thr Gln Thr.
- 16. An antigenic preparation according to claim 15, further comprising repeating sequences of the polypeptide.
 - 17. An antigenic preparation according to claim 15, further comprising at least one epitope of the polypeptide.

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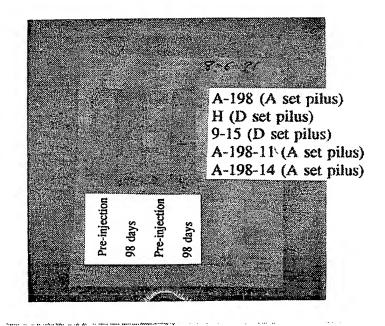
18. An antigenic preparation according to claim 2 against *Pseudomonas aeroginosa*, wherein the submolecular unit has the following structure:

Phe Thr Leu Ile Glu Leu Met Ile Val Val Ala Ile Ile Gly Ile Leu Ala Ala Ile Ala Ile Pro Gln Tyr Gln Asn Tyr Val Ala Arg Ser Glu Gly Ala Ser Ala Leu Ser Val Asn Pro Leu Lys Thr Thr Val Glu Glu Ala Leu Ser Arg Gly.

- 19. An antigenic preparation according to claim 18, further comprising repeating sequences of the polypeptide.
- 20. An antigenic preparation according to claim 18, further comprising at least one epitope of the polypeptide.
- 21. An antigenic preparation as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 20 in which the submolecular unit or any part of the submolecular unit of pilin protein is suspended in a suitable pharmaceutical carrier and used as a vaccine.
- 22. An antigenic preparation as claimed in claim 21 which includes an adjuvant.

Sheet 1 of 13

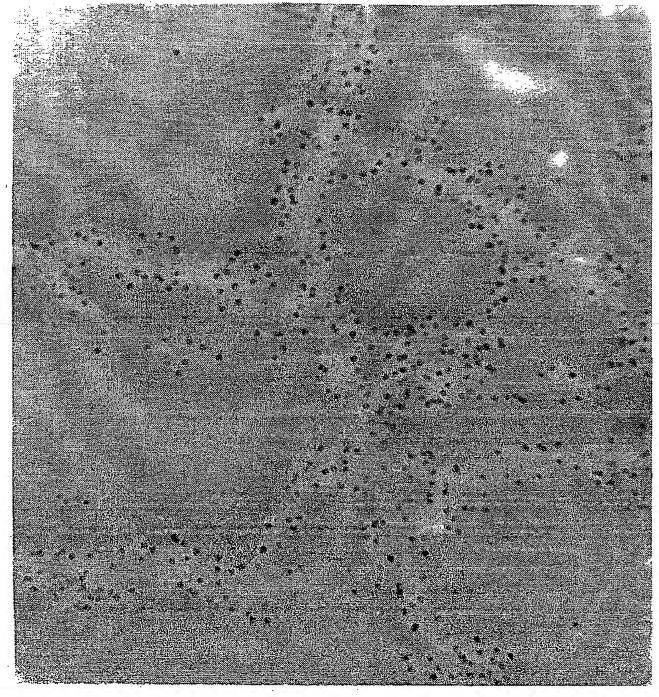
Fig. 1



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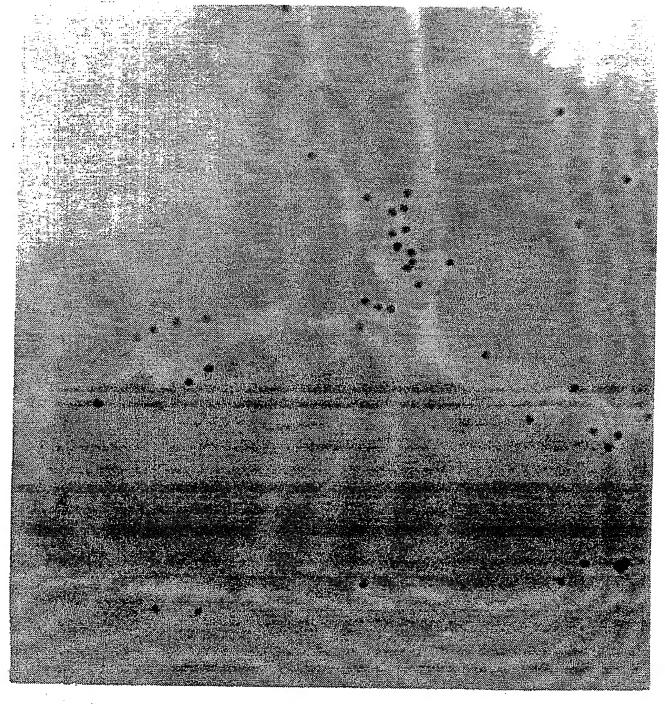
Fig. 2



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Fig. 3



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TTA

GGC Gly

Gly Ile Leu

ATC GGT ATC Ile Gly Ile

Ala Ile

ACC TTA ATC GAA CTC ATG ATT GTA GTT GCA ATT Thr Leu Ile Glu Leu Met Ile Val Val Ala Ile

3,

TAA GCT ICG AAG Hind III

CGC ATT TCT GAT CAC TTA Arg Ile Ser Asp His Leu

TTG AAG GTT Leu Lys Val

TTG GCT GAT GGT Leu Ala Asp Gly Leu Ala Asp

FIG.

CAA GCA GCT GAA Gln Ala Ala Glu GCT TTC GCT ATC CCT GCA TAT AAC GAC TAC ATC GCT CGT TCA Ala Phe Ala Ile Pro Ala Tyr Asn Asp Tyr Ile Ala Arg Ser

Stop

5,

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Site GGA TCC Bam HI

Sheet 5 of 13

FIG.

ATT

ATC

TTA

Bam HI SITE TGA TCC

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5,

TTA Leu Lys AAA GCG ATC TTA I GAA Glu TCT GAT CAC TTA GGT AAT GAT GAT Ser Asp His Leu Gly Asn Asp Asp GGT Gly GCA Ala TCA CAA (Ser Gln A GTT GCA ATT Val Ala Ile GCT CGT : TAC ATC GTA Val Ile ATT CGC GAA CTC ATG Glu Leu Met TAT AAC GAC Tyr Asn Asp TTG AAG GTT Leu Lys Val Ile GCA CCT Leu g_{GI} ATC ACC Ile Asp TTC GCT Leu

TAA GCT TCG AAG Hind III GCT Ala GCT CTT

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Bam HI

Gly TTA Leu Gly TTG GCT GAT GGT TTG AAG GTT CGC ATT TCT GAT CAC TTA GGT AAT GAT AAA Leu Ala Asp Gly Leu Lys Val Arg Ile Ser Asp His Leu Gly Asn Asp Asp Lys GGT ATC TTA Gly Ile Leu TTC GCT ATC CCT GCA TAT AAC GAC TAC ATC GCT CGT TCA CAA GCA GCT GAA Ala Glu Ser Gln Ala Ala Ile Ile GCA ATT ATC 3 TAC GCT CTT GCT ACA ATT GAT GGT GAT TAA GCT ICG AAG
Tyr Ala Leu Ala Thr Ile Asp Gly Asp Hind III
Site Tyr Ile Ala Arg ACC TTA ATC GAA CTC ATG ATT GTA GTT Thr Leu Ile Glu Leu Met Ile Val Val Stop Tyr Asn Asp Phe Ala Ile Pro Ala Site 5'GCC GGA TCC GCT ACA AAA Lys

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FIG. 7

Bam HI Site GGA TCC

Val GAA Glu ATC TTA Arg AAA Lys AGC Ser ggCys Leu Leu Asp Gly TAA GCT TCG AAG 3' Hind III GGT Gly GTT Val GAT ATC Ile Gln CAA TGC CTT TTA Ile Ser TCA GCT CGT GCA GAA ACT Glu Thr GTT Val TTA GTA AGT AAC Ser Asn] ATC ATT (Ile TAC ATC (Ile CAA AAC Gln Asn ACC ACA Thr Thr ATG Met GCC CTC ACT ATC GAA Ile Glu TGG CGC Arg TAC Tyr ATT GGT Ile Gly ATG Met CAA Gln ACC TTA Thr Leu CAA Gln TGC TTC Cys Phe GGA Gly ATT Ile GCT Ala ACT Glu GAA TCA

Stop

SUBSTITUTE SHEET

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GGA TCC ACC TTA ATC GAA CTC ATG ATT GTA GTT GCA ATT ATC GGT ATC TTA GCT Site ပ္ပပ္သ 2,

Bam HI

GTTThr Leu Ile Glu Leu Met Ile Val Val Ala Ile Ile Gly Ile Leu Ala AGC CGC TAC CAA AAC TAC ATC GCT CGT TCA CAA GTT GCT ATT CCA CAA ATC GCA

GGA Gly Met Val GAA Glu Ser Arg AAA Lys TGC CTT TTA GAT GGT Cys Leu Leu Asp Gly Ser Gln Val Ile Ala Ile Pro Gln Tyr Gln Asn Tyr Ile Ala Arg ACT Thr ATC GAA Ile Glu CAA ATG CGC ACT GCC Gln Met Arg Thr Ala GGA ACT GAA Glu TCA

Asp ACA GAC GTT Thr Asp Val ATT GGT TGG ACC ACA AGT AAC TTA TTA TGC TCA ACA Ile Gly Trp Thr Thr Ser Asn Leu Leu Cys Ser Thr TIC Phe GAT TGC cys Asp AAA Lys

TAA GCT TCG AAG Hind III AAA Lys Cys \mathbf{TGT} 66c 61y ACT Thr Pro ' TTC AAG CCA

Lys

Lys

3,

Codon Stop

Ala

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FIG.

3, TAA GCT TCG AAG 3 Hind III Site ATC Ile GAA GCC Glu Ala ATT TCC GGC GIT AAT Asn CTG GTC Val CAA Gln ATC Ile GCG Ala TAC Tyr CCI TAT CGC Arg GAG Glu GTGACC Thr Val ACC Thr GTC Val TAC Tyr ATG GCC GAC Asp Met CTG CAA Gln TCA CAA AAA Gln Lys GAG Glu TAC ATC Ile GCC Ala CCC Pro CTT Leu GGT Gly GCC GAA Ala Glu ACC CTT Leu Bam HI Site GGA TCC GCC TTG CTT GCA 2,

Stop

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Stop

FIG. 10

Bam Hi

3" TAC CTG AAT TAA GCT TCG AAG Tyr Leu Asn Hind III TCC GAA GCC Ser Glu Ala ATT TTG GCG Ile Leu Ala GGC GTT Val GCA CAA (Ala Glu ATT GCC ATC GTC Ile Ala Ile Val GCC CGC (Ala Arg A TCA GCC GTC ACA GAG TAT Ser Ala Val Thr Glu Tyr GAG CTG ATG ATT GTG Glu Leu Met Ile Val Tyr Thr TAC ACA TAT CAA GAC CAA AAA Gln Lys ATC Ile GCT ACC CTT I Ala Val Ala Leu Pro CCI TTG GCC GAA GGT Leu Ala Glu Gly CLT Site GGA TCC GTC GCC CTT GCA

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FIG. 11

CCC Pro GTT Val ACT GTA Val GCT CTA AAA Lys ATC Ile GGT ACT GGT GAG Glu ACT ATT Ile TTG ATT Ile TCT ATC GCC GCT AAG Lys GCT TCT Ser GTT ATC Ile GAT Asp Val ATT TAT Tyr GTG Val GCT TTG ATG Met GAC Asp Leu CAA Gln ACT AAA Lys GAA TAC Tyr ATC Ile GCT GGT GCT CTTLeu CCT Pro GGC GAA CTA GCT Gly Gly Glu Leu Ala CTA Leu ACC TAA GCT TCG AAG Bam HI Site GGA TCC Hind III

Stop

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FIG. 12

AAG Lys GTT Val 3, TAA GCT TCG AAG 3 Hind III Site ACC GTG Val GGG CAG AAT ATG Gln Asn Met ATT ATG Stop 66C 61y TCG ACA Thr CAG ATC ATC GTT CTA Ile Ile Val Leu GAT Asp CTG ACA Leu Thr GCG Ala CGT Arg GCA GTG Val CAG Gln GTT Val CAA Glu GAA Glu GCG Ala CTC Leu ATC Ile CTG TTA Leu ACT AGT Ser ACA GTT Val AAT Asn CTC Leu ATG Met GTT Val AGT Bam HI Site GGA TCC GGG ပ္ပင္သ TCG GCG

SUBSTITUTE SHEET

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FIG. 1

3, GGT TAA GCT TCG AAG Gly Hind III GCA TCT GCT CTT Ala Ser Ala Leu ATC TTG GCT Ile Leu Ala TCT CGT GGC Gly ATC ATC GGT Ile Ile Gly GAA Glu GCG CTT Ala Leu TCG ATC GTG GTT GCG Ile Val Val Ala CGT Arg GAA GAG (Glu Glu A GCT GTA CTG ATG ATC GTG TAT GTT Val CAG AAT Gln Asn ATC GAA CTG ATG Ile Glu Leu Met TCG GTC AAT CCG TTG AAG ACT ACC Ser Val Asn Pro Leu Lys Thr Thr TAT Tyr CAG Gln Leu CCT Pro TTG ATT Ile ACC Bam HI Site ATT GCC Ile Ala ပ္ပပ္သ GCA GCT 5,

Sheet 13 of 13

Stop Codon

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/US92/11085

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(5) :A61K 39/095, 39/106, 39/108, 39/104; C12N 1/00, 1/20 US CL :424/92; 435/7.3, 69.1, 252.33						
According	to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both	national classification and IPC				
	LDS SEARCHED					
	ocumentation searched (classification system followe 424/92; 435/7.3, 69.1, 252.33, 849, 871, 875	d by classification symbols)				
Documental	tion searched other than minimum documentation to th	e extent that such documents are included	in the fields searched			
	lata base consulted during the international search (nais, Medline, CAS, Embase, Agricola, Life Sciences,					
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT						
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where a	ppropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.			
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Y	US, A, 4,737,363 (Stewart et al) 12 A	April 1988, col. 2, line 13.	21-22			
Y	J.R. Egerton et al, "Footrot and published 1989 by CRC Press, Inc. (224, especially pages 225 and 230.	foot abscess of ruminants" Boca Raton, FL), pages 220-	1-22			
Y	JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEM issued 25 November 1986, K. Johnson and Transcriptional Site of Two Ps Genes, pages 15703-15708, especially	n et al, "Nucleotide Sequence eudomonas aeruginosa Pilin	18-20			
A	GENE, Volume 85, No. 1, issued 198 sequence of the Structural Gene, tcp A Vibrio cholerae:, pages 227-231.	9, R. Faast et al, "Nucleotide , for a Major Pilin Subunit of	1-22			
X Furth	er documents are listed in the continuation of Box C	See patent family annex.				
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Date of the actual completion of the international search		Date of mailing of the international search report				
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
US92/11085

	tion). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Category* Y	SCIENCE, Volume 228, issued 24 May 1985, J.F. Young et al, "Expression of Plasmodium falciparum Circumsporozoite Proteins in Escherichia coli for Potential Use in a Human Malaria Vaccine", pages 958-962, especially page 962.	1-20
Y	JOURNAL OF EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE, Volume 168, issued September 1988, W.W. Reuhl et al, "Purification, Characterization, and Pathogenicity of Moraxella bovis Pili", pages 983-1002, especially page 995.	12-14
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